

New Year, New Career



What better way to ring in the new year than as a newly commissioned officer? Chief Machinist's Mate (SW/AW) Michael L. Mendez officially crossed over to the officer ranks Thursday morning during his commissioning ceremony in USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) foc'sle. Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CWO2) Mendez enlisted in the Navy in 1992. Following boot camp, he completed Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Fla., and went on to Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Mendez served aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), and Navy Personnel Command (PERS 403) in Millington, Tenn., before reporting to TR in October 2007. Mendez earned two bachelor's degrees and two master's degrees during his 17 years of naval service. The Big Stick bids fair winds and following seas to CWO2 Mendez as he makes his way to George H.W. Bush.

Photos:

1. Chief Machinist Mate (SW/AW) Michael L. Mendez makes his last walk as an enlisted member, at the procession of his commissioning ceremony in the ship's foc'sle.
2. Capt. Ace Vanwagoner, Reactor Officer, pins Mendez with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.
3. Mendez recites the Oath of Office as led by Vanwagoner.
4. Mendez transitions from chief petty officer to chief warrant officer, as comrades remove the chief petty officer anchor insignia from his collar.
5. An officer combination cover sits on a table, prepared for Mendez.
6. Reactor officers, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matt May (left), Lt. Cmdr. Mike Thompson and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shawn Quigley dress Mendez in his new insignia and cover.



Story by MC2 Remus Borisov

Photos by MC3 Derek Allen

Layout by MC2 Wilyanna Harper